POL 23-9 GREECE

37 **INCOMING TELEGRAM** *Department of State*

47-41 CONFIDENTIAL

Action

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/IR
REVIEWED BY W J DATE 6 MAY 1982
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EXCISIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4846

1. ATHENS REMAINS QUIET AND CALM THIS MORNING, AND TRAFFIC, ETC. IS MOVING AS NORMAL. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, OCCASIONAL SHOTS DURING THE NIGHT, PRESUMABLY AS WARNINGS TO PEOPLE TO OBEY CURFEW.

2. THREE NEWSPAPERS, TO VIMA (PRO-CENTER UNION), AKROPOLIS (ERE) AND ELEFTHEROS COSMOS (ERE), AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE POST AND NEWS RESUMED PUBLICATION THIS MORNING IN ABBREVIATED FOUR PAGE EDITIONS. ALL THREE GIVE TEXTS OF NEW GOVERNMENT'S

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PROCLAMATIONS, OFFICIAL STATEMENTS BROADCAST BY RADIO, NAMES OF MINISTERS, ETC. VIMA HAS NO COMMENT OF ANY KIND ON COUP; AKROPOLIS SIMPLY ASSERTS IN LEAD ARTICLE THAT "ASSUMPTION OF ADMINISTRATION OF COUNTRY BY ARMY WAS RECEIVED WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM AND FEELINGS OF RELIEF BY THE PEOPLE."

3. ELEFTHEROS COSMOS IS MOST INTERESTING OF PUBLISHED PAPERS BECAUSE IT HAS LONG EDITORIAL BY ITS EDITOR KONSTANDOPOULOS WHO WE BELIEVE IS CLOSE TO JUNTA. KOSTANDOPOULOS WRITES: "WE WERE PROCEEDING TOWARDS AN EXPLOSION," "POLITICAL WORLD FAILED TO UNDERSTAND NATURE OF THE DANGER;" "SETTING OF ELECTIONS FOR MAY 28 WITHOUT PREVIOUSLY HAVING SECURED GUARANTEES OF NORMALITY WAS A MISTAKE;" "WHEN ARMY CONFIRMED THAT POLITICAL WORLD DID NOT HAVE STRENGTH TO GIVE RIGHT SOLUTION IT WAS COMPELLED TO INTERVENE".

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4. KOSTANDOPOULOS' THESIS IS THAT, IN VIEW OF ASPIDA AND LEFTIST SLOGANS OF CENTER UNION, CONCLUSION WAS REACHED THAT EK "WOULD OVERTHROW EVERYTHING," IF IT WON ELECTIONS. ON OTHER HAND, IF EK LOST ELECTIONS, IT WOULD CHARGE THAT

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THERE HAD BEEN "PRESSURE AND ADULTERATION." AND IT WOULD HAVE JOINED FORCES WITH EDA IN SAYING THAT MAJORITY OF GREEK PEOPLE DISAPPROVE OF KING. EITHER RESULT WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR COUNTRY. KONSTANDOPOULOS CONCLUDES: "DEMOCRACY HAS GONE TO SLEEP. FOR HOW LONG - THAT WILL DEPEND ON ALL OF US. ARMY HAS DESIRE TO PROTECT NATION, SAFEGUARD NATION, AND PROTECT MORAL AND MATERIAL WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE. LET US ALL HELP IT. SETTING ASIDE FOR AWHILE OUR POLITICAL CONVICTIONS AND LOOKING FORWARD TO RECONCILIATION OF GREEKS AND TO PROGRESS OF NATION. IF WE SHOW WISDOM AND PATRIOTISM OUR PEOPLE WILL ENJOY, AS IT DESERVES, PEACE AND WELL-BEING."

GP-3. TALBOT
BT

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 8:47 A.M., 4-23-67. PASSED WHITE HOUSE, USIA, DOD, NSA, CIA AT 10:30 A.M., 4-23-67.